

THE LACLEDE BLADE.

A. J. GAYWOOD, Publisher.
LACLEDE, MISSOURI.

TOPICS OF THE DAY.

Where Poverty Is Bliss.
The people of Zion City haven't the money that Dowle wants, so they will save just that much.

Fair to Look Upon.
All the big countries as well as the little ones are recognizing Panama since she fell heir to \$10,000,000.

The Limit of Distress.
The Indian has suffered much, but he could never have believed he would become an "ethnological exhibit."

Do Not Molest.
Tennessee negroes have organized a party against the use of cocaine. It is to be hoped nobody will stuff the ballot box.

Dr. Hillis' Mistake.
When Dr. Hillis predicts that in 50 years the women "will be" smarter than the men, doesn't he know that it is no compliment?

Uncle Sam Is Willing.
We are prepared to "exercise a protectorate over South America," but are yet in some doubt as to what South America will say about it.

No Definite Plans for the Future.
The Texas convict who was sentenced to 1,000 years in the penitentiary has formed no definite plans yet as to what he shall do when his term expires.

A Margin for Economy.
Secretary Shaw figures out that Uncle Sam will need \$24,562,146.07 next year. By a little stern economy that seven cents might be clipped from the bill.

No Reckless Haste.
President Roosevelt may be somewhat impulsive, but he is not showing any reckless haste to act on the suggestion of the Cincinnati Commercial-Tribune that he withdraw.

Until the Money Is Gone.
There is to be another Santo Domingo revolution. Of course there is. Didn't Woy Y Gil get away with \$1,750,000? There will be revolutions until there isn't a cent left in San Domingo.

Easy Way to Wealth.
Last summer a woman drove 55 cows into Thunder Mountain, Wyo. Each cow was loaded with a pack containing provisions, etc. The woman remained in Thunder Mountain 4 1/2 months and made \$1,800 clear money. She sold her milk for 25 cents a quart.

Where Sense Is Discounted.
That people still like romance and lack sense is shown by Dowle's story of the angel that appeared to him of "being money," which is believed by Zion's host. Dowle goes on the principle that it is foolish to preach to people for being silly. Make what can be made out of it.

Slight Tumble In Necessaries.
Apparently the prices of the necessities of life are coming down to accord with the general falling off in incomes. Radium, for instance, which a few days ago was selling at \$1,000,000, has now been marked down to \$900,000 a pound, and may go lower yet, if the Yale professors who are trying to extract it from the soil of the Nutmeg state meet with success.

Unfortunate Condition.
Over 50,000 cotton mill hands in Massachusetts have had their wages lowered as a result of the increased cost of cotton. But two or three speculators in New Orleans have made millions of dollars, and some speculators elsewhere have profited generally. Possibly this cannot be helped. But it is most unfortunate that 80,000 mill-workers should suffer while a few men make millions.

No Gave, but Many Kids.
In a divorce petition filed in Allen county, Kan., a wife alleges that her husband refused to put in natural gas and compelled her to cook with wood. The petition alleges further that "said defendant has treated said plaintiff with great negligence and cruelty" in spite of the fact that during 25 years "she bore him 12 children of the ages respectively of 24, 22, 20, 18, 16, 15, 12, 10, 8, 6, 4 years and one 6 months."

Where the Coal Fields Are.
Of an estimated coal area of about 1,650,000 square miles in the world, China is credited with 4,000,000 square miles, the United States has about 260,000 square miles, Great Britain 11,300 miles, Germany 1,770 miles and Belgium 510 square miles. Area is not, however, a true measure of value. The anthracite fields of Pennsylvania include an area of only 168 miles, but these are undoubtedly of more value than any coal area of like extent anywhere in the world.

Railway Mail Service.
At the close of the fiscal year of 1903 there were 2,935 railway mail routes in use by the post office department, with an aggregate length of 192,852 miles. The cost of transportation, or "annual rate of expenditure," was \$36,607,524. Twenty-six years ago the annual rate of expenditure was \$8,463,197, or less than a quarter of the rate last year. Moreover, \$5,279,323 was expended in 1902-03 for railway post office cars, and the aggregate of all transportation costs of 1902-03 was \$65,186,715.

New York's Great Enterprise.
It is noticed as an interesting coincidence that on November 3, the day the people of Panama set up their independent government, thus insuring the construction of the isthmian canal, the state of New York voted to expend \$101,000,000, or about half the cost of the Panama enterprise, in enlarging the Erie canal. The building of the Panama canal may have appeared to be a giant undertaking, but it fades into insignificance when compared to proposed improvements in the Erie canal, people and resources considered.

CANAL TREATY SAFE

Senate Will Ratify the New Agreement with Panama.

Sufficient Number of Democrats in Favor of It to Secure Its Ratification—The Treaty Reaches New York Signed.

Washington, Dec. 16.—The democratic caucus, after considerable opposition, passed a resolution declaring that caucus action of the party hereafter should be binding and that all members should abide by such caucus action. The resolution to make the caucus binding provides that any action so endorsed must have a two-thirds vote. The Panama canal situation was discussed and it was developed that a sufficient number of democrats would vote for the treaty to insure its ratification.

Until the senate shall have ratified the Hay-Bunau-Varilla treaty the administration will look to the marines to protect the isthmus and keep order there, unless in the meantime it is learned that a considerable force of Colombian troops are to attack Panama. In the latter event the protection of the republic could be best accomplished by the army and troops would supplement the marines. It may be stated, however, that this government does not expect such an emergency to arise at present and has prepared to retain the present force of marines in isthmian waters until after the ratification of the canal treaty.

FOLK'S STATEMENT.

The St. Louis Attorney Says the Boodle Cases Will Continue to Be Tried and Sent to the Supreme Court.

St. Louis, Dec. 16.—Circuit Attorney Folk when asked yesterday for an opinion on the supreme court's decision declaring that informations issued by prosecuting attorneys are not valid unless accompanied by affidavits by them or some other person, dictated the following statement:

"So far as the boodle cases are concerned they will continue to be tried and sent to the supreme court. Whatever the effect of the decision may be, it will not permanently release any boodler now under charge. While the supreme court's reversal of itself may necessitate a great deal of extra work, there will be no complaint from my office on that account."

Indian Agent Randlett Exonerated.
Washington, Dec. 16.—Indian Agent Randlett, in charge of the Kiowa, Comanche and Apache agency in Oklahoma, is completely exonerated by Francis E. Leupp, in his report on the investigation of charges against that official. The charges were made by dissatisfied Indians and alleged that allotments were made to dead Indians and white men.

Copy of the Treaty Here.
New York, Dec. 16.—The steamer City of Washington arrived Tuesday from Colon, bringing the signed copy of the canal treaty with the republic of Panama. The treaty was in a metal box in charge of the purser, who turned it over to a representative of the government on arrival at the dock.

Soldiers Threatened to Lynch a Comrade.
Salt Lake City, Dec. 16.—Thomas R. Fuller, the Fort Douglas soldier accused of criminally assaulting and seriously injuring Miss Lillian Gill Sunday night, has been taken to the state penitentiary for safe keeping. Nearly 200 soldiers at the post were planning to storm the jail and lynch Fuller.

Missouri Robbed of \$5,100.
Indianapolis, Ind., Dec. 16.—D. A. Ross, a railway contractor living at Excelsior Springs, Mo., discovered at noon yesterday that he had been robbed of \$5,100 in cash since leaving Washington on the Big Four's sleeper to St. Louis. In the missing money roll was a \$500 gold certificate.

Mother Saw Child Perish.
Scandia, Kan., Dec. 16.—The 19-months old son of W. E. Adams was burned to death here. With another child it was in the house. The mother heard the older child screaming and ran to the house to find the baby at the door with its clothing ablaze.

Root Is Wood's Defender.
Washington, Dec. 16.—In a letter to Senator Proctor, chairman of the committee on military affairs, Secretary of War Root vigorously defends Gen. Leonard Wood from the attacks made on him. Root declares the evidence against Wood is "doctored."

Women Before Grand Jury.
Wyandotte, Kan., Dec. 16.—Before the grand jury investigating "graft" in city contracts, the wives of several aldermen gave testimony regarding the bank accounts of their husbands.

Persians and Turcomans Slay.
St. Petersburg, Dec. 16.—Sanguinary conflicts between Persians and Turcomans are reported to have occurred on the Russo-Persian frontier.

Bryan in the Case of the Realm.
Vienna, Dec. 16.—William J. Bryan arrived here Tuesday from Vienna. He made no stay in Vienna, going on to Moscow, by way of Warsaw.

A Tailors' Strike Declared Off.
Cleveland, O., Dec. 16.—The journey-men tailors' strike, which has been on in this city since September 18, was declared off yesterday by the men and all those remaining unemployed will go to work to-day as individuals. The principal contention has been for recognition of the union.

Discussed Getting a Loan for World's Fair.
St. Louis, Dec. 16.—The matter of securing a loan of \$4,000,000 from the United States government was discussed at considerable length by the world's fair national commission.

Two Fraternal Orders Merged.
Chicago, Dec. 16.—The Fraternal Army of America and the Loyal Americans, embracing a membership of over 1,000,000, scattered all over the United States, were merged into one organization here yesterday. The new body will be known as the Fraternal Army of Loyal Workers.

Right to Smuggle Detectives.
Lawrence, Kan., Dec. 16.—Judge Smart, of the district court, decided that the county commissioners of this county had a right to engage persons to search for unlicensed taxable property.

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NOT SO BINDING AFTER ALL.

Democratic Senators Will Vote Independent of Party Caucus on the Cuban Reciprocity Measure.

Washington, Dec. 17.—The democratic senators continued their conference Wednesday with a view of reaching a conclusion on the course to be pursued regarding legislation. They decided that the caucus action that democratic senators should vote together on party questions in the future should not be binding in the vote upon the Cuban reciprocity bill, but that each senator should vote as he might prefer on that measure. The conference also agreed to postpone its decision as to the course to be pursued with reference to the Panama canal treaty and decided to hold meetings for the consideration of that and other questions as they may come up for consideration.

TO MEET AT KANSAS CITY.

Prohibition National Committee Chooses a Place for 1904 Convention—June 29 the Date.

Chicago, Dec. 17.—The next national convention of the prohibition party will be held in Kansas City, Wednesday, June 29.

The report of Treasurer Samuel Dickey, of Michigan, showed that the committee had paid all its bills and had \$7,000 to begin its next presidential campaign.

Baptist Young People's Union.
Detroit, Mich., Dec. 17.—Word was received here yesterday that this city has been chosen for the 1904 convention of the Baptist Young People's Union of America. The date has not been fixed, but July 7 to 10 has been favorably mentioned.

GIBSON'S HAPPY APHORISM.

He Likens the Tariff to Pair of Suspender "Too Tight in Some Places, Too Loose in Others."

Washington, Dec. 17.—When the house convened Wednesday consideration of the pension appropriation bill was resumed in committee of the whole. Mr. Gibson (rep. Tenn.) being the first speaker. He said the president had pursued a wise and prudent course in connection with the Panama question. He declared that the south was prospering under republican tariff laws and would prosper under a republican isthmian canal. He said the tariff was like a pair of suspenders—too tight in some places and too loose in others, but very useful just the same.

ROOT LOYAL TO WOOD.

Secretary of War Before Senate Committee Seeking to Refute Charges Against the Nominee for Major General.

Washington, Dec. 17.—Secretary Root was the first witness Wednesday before the senate committee on military affairs which is investigating protests against the confirmation of Gen. Leonard Wood to be major general. Mr. Root's testimony was in defense of Gen. Wood on the charges that have been made during the course of the hearings. He read extracts from official correspondence bearing on the charges and also concerning Gen. Wood's administration as governor general of Cuba.

Indian Scout Home from Manila.
San Francisco, Dec. 17.—Capt. Arthur Kelly, the famous Indian scout who served under Gen. Nelson A. Miles in the campaign of 1876, 1877 and 1878 in Wyoming and Montana when he was given the sobriquet of "Yellowstone" Kelly on account of his familiarity with the territory bordering on the Yellowstone river, returned from the Philippines on the transport Sherman. Kelly is on his way home to New York.

John Butler Dies of Heart Trouble.
St. Louis, Dec. 17.—John R. Butler, aged 32, son of Edward Butler, whose conviction on a charge of bribery was quashed by the supreme court recently, died last night from heart trouble. He had been looking after his father's political interests for the past two years.

The Canal Treaty Made Public.
Washington, Dec. 17.—The senate in executive session yesterday made public the convention between the United States and the republic of Panama for the construction of a canal across the isthmus, which was signed on November 18.

Bankers Before the Grand Jury.
Kansas City, Kan., Dec. 17.—Five bank cashiers of this city appeared before the Wyandotte county grand jury yesterday to testify as to the private bank deposits of certain city officials during the last two years.

Mrs. Manning Elected President.
St. Louis, Dec. 17.—Mrs. Daniel Manning, of Albany, N. Y., was yesterday elected president of the world's fair board of lady managers, vice Mrs. James L. Blair, resigned. She received 14 out of 15 votes, one being blank.

Son Found Father a Suicide.
Topeka, Kan., Dec. 17.—John Wilson, a prominent farmer northeast of this city, committed suicide by hanging himself in a barn. His son going to feed the horses was confronted by the corpse.

Perished by Fire.
Johnstown, Pa., Dec. 17.—James Crabby's wife and daughter, Grace, the latter aged 13, were burned to death in their home in this city yesterday, while a son, James, is missing and is believed to have perished. The fire started from the kitchen stove.

Famous Actor Now Destitute.
Alameda, Cal., Dec. 17.—Suffering from rheumatism and practically destitute, William Lansing, who was once a popular actor, playing in leading roles with Edwin Booth, has been moved to the county infirmary.

Coming with Santos Dumont No. 7.
Paris, Dec. 17.—Santos Dumont will start for St. Louis in a fortnight to arrange for the installation of his huge dirigible balloon "Santos-Dumont No. 7" and the hydrogen generators and to learn the quality of the gas preliminary to taking part in the dirigible balloon competition.

Greek Cabinet Also Quite.
Athens, Greece, Dec. 17.—The Ralli cabinet has resigned, the premier being unable to find sufficient support in the chamber of deputies to carry out his policy.

Bryan Sees the Pope.
Rome, Dec. 15.—During a fierce gale Sunday night the schooner Salter's Home was driven ashore at St. Mary's bay and the crew of six persons perished. The schooner is now a derelict and was seen drifting about in the ocean yesterday.

MAY FREE BOODLERS

Opinion of Missouri Supreme Court Annals Work of Prosecutors Folk.

It Is Held That Information Issued by Prosecuting Attorneys Must Be Sworn to by Prosecuting Witnesses in the Case.

St. Louis, Dec. 15.—Notification of a decision of the Missouri supreme court, which brings into question the legality of hundreds of arrests and convictions recently made on information in St. Louis, and which, according to Circuit Attorney Folk, opens the doors of the penitentiary, through writs of habeas corpus, to many others, was received here yesterday by that official.

In the list of cases which, under the ruling of the court, could be affected if the plea of illegal arrest was raised, are the majority of the suburban franchise boodler convictions.

A well-known lawyer yesterday said the statute of limitations in these cases expired last November and that if the present charges against the accused men should be found defective it would be impossible to bring new indictments against them.

All of the cases are before the supreme court on appeal and the records show that each case was tried on information furnished by the circuit attorney on his official oath.

Mr. Folk notified Judge McDonald, of the criminal division of the circuit court, and proceedings were stopped in all cases affected. Nine cases were wiped off the docket and the witnesses sent to the grand jury room, there to give information on which to base indictments to take the place of the invalid informations.

The decision is that reversing the case of the state against William Bonner, which holds that an information issued by the circuit attorney must be sworn to by prosecuting witnesses in the case and that circuit attorneys or prosecuting attorneys could only swear to information from personal knowledge of the facts.

For two years, under a former decision of the supreme court, and under the constitutional amendment of 1900 and the act of 1901, prosecuting attorneys and circuit attorneys have been giving information under their official oaths.

In St. Louis alone, it is stated, fully 22,000 cases have been tried on such information and convictions resulted.

\$5,000,000 Shortage in Chicago.
Chicago, Dec. 15.—A shortage of \$5,000,000, coupled with charges of misappropriation of funds and criminal mismanagement in the special assessment department of the municipal government, has been laid bare and proved by expert accountants as the result of two years of investigation.

School-Children Cause Wreck.
Colorado Springs, Col., Dec. 15.—The locomotive, baggage car and first coach of a Rock Island train were thrown off the track ten miles east of Colorado Springs, and three trainmen were badly hurt. The wreck was caused by school children who placed a bolt on the track.

A Riot at Chauvau.
Chanute, Kan., Dec. 15.—Ed McLain, Walt McLain, Solon Mitchell and George Mitchell created a riot here in which one man was fatally wounded and several shots fired on the streets. The men were more or less intoxicated and making a disturbance.

Married a Couple Without Authority.
Vinita, I. T., Dec. 15.—Moses Pronger, a full-blooded Cherokee Indian preacher, is in jail here on a charge of having married a couple without having his authority first inspected and certified by the district clerk. He was sent to jail for 30 days.

Want to Keep Their Negroes.
Austin, Tex., Dec. 15.—The labor agents representing Louisiana and Mississippi planters, who have been scouring Texas for negro farm hands to go to those states, have been warned by the Texas planters in a number of localities to leave.

May Ask the President.
Washington, Dec. 15.—The president may be asked to use his influence in getting Ziegler out of New York state and into Missouri, where he is under indictment in connection with legislative boodling.

Day Laborer Hired to \$1,000,000.
Ottumwa, Ia., Dec. 15.—Frank Bradbury, a machinist in the employ of the Ottumwa Iron works, has fallen heir to a fortune estimated at \$1,000,000. His uncle, Thomas Bradbury, of New York, a piano manufacturer, named him director heir.

Presents Husband with Twentieth Child.
Eminence, Mo., Dec. 15.—The wife of John C. Holland, living two miles south, gave birth to a baby last night. Mr. Holland is now the father of 20 children—ten boys and ten girls—and has raised three stepchildren.

Her Crew of Six Men Drowned.
St. Johns, N. P., Dec. 15.—During a fierce gale Sunday night the schooner Salter's Home was driven ashore at St. Mary's bay and the crew of six persons perished. The schooner is now a derelict and was seen drifting about in the ocean yesterday.

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BURNED IN A WRECK.

R. M. Herliage, a Brakeman, Meets a Horrible Death on the Frisco Line Near Fort Scott.

Fort Scott, Kan., Dec. 17.—A disastrous wreck occurred on the Frisco ten miles south of here yesterday morning, resulting in the horrible death of a brakeman and the injury of two other members of the crew. The first section of a freight train ran short of water and the engineer left the train on the track while he went to the tank. The brakeman failed to send back a flag and the second section crashed into the caboose. R. M. Herliage, of this city, who was in the second engine, was caught in the wreck and literally burned to death. H. E. Williford and H. J. Kramer, also of this city, the negligent brakeman, were badly injured, but will recover. The engine and several cars were burned.

NOT ABOVE "SUSPICION."

Conrad and Bonaparte Refer to Perry S. Heath's Connection with the Tullach Post Office Frauds.

Washington, Dec. 17.—The report of Messrs. Conrad and Bonaparte on the charges made by S. W. Tullach, formerly cashier of the Washington city post office, against the administration of this office was made public yesterday. Under instructions from the president the report views the Tullach charges "from a legal standpoint."

The report says the revision of Postmaster Willet's accounts of itself is sufficient to show that Mr. Heath's official record is not so clear as to defy suspicion. It also says that the discussion of the Tullach charges has revealed the existence of deplorable and gravely discreditable abuses during the years 1898, 1899 and 1900 in the Washington post office and the office of the first assistant postmaster general.

THE FRIAR LANDS.

The Question Settled by the Government Agreeing to Pay \$7,250,000 for 403,000 Acres.

Manila, Dec. 17.—An agreement has been reached by Gov. Taft and the friars providing for the settlement of the "friar" land question. The pope has given his approval of the terms of the settlement and the approval of the war department is awaited. The settlement provides for the purchase of 403,000 acres, comprising all the agricultural lands and buildings of the friars, with the exception of 12,000 acres, including a farm near Manila, which has been sold to a railway company, and also one sugar plantation. The price agreed upon is \$7,250,000. The friars originally asked \$13,000,000. Gov. Taft offered them \$6,000,000.

SENATE VOTES FOR CUBA.

Only Eighteen Men Opposed the Reciprocity Measure—Carries Reduction Votary from 20 to 10 Per Cent.

Washington, Dec. 17.—By the decisive vote of 57 to 18 the senate yesterday passed the bill carrying into effect the reciprocity treaty with Cuba. The final vote came at the close of a day which was marked by a debate which, while at all times animated, was never acrimonious.

The bill carries into execution the treaty between the United States and Cuba which was ratified last March. The treaty provides for a reduction of 20 per cent. from the rates of duty under the Dingley law on all Cuban articles into the United States and a varying reduction of from 20 to 40 per cent. from the established Cuban duty on articles into Cuba from the United States.

BURNED TO DEATH.

The Battered Left Their Five Children Alone in the House and It Got Afire and Three Lost Their Lives.

Dubuque, Ia., Dec. 17.—Three children of August Batten, a farmer of Alamakee county, were burned to death Tuesday night. Batten and his wife had left their five children alone in the house. The residence burned to the ground and only two of the children escaped.

KRATZ MUST COME BACK.

Secretary Hay Says Missouri Supreme Court's Decision Will Not Affect Extradition of the Alleged Boodler.

Washington, Dec. 17.—In the opinion of the state department extradition officials the failure of the information in the St. Louis boodlers' cases will not operate to prevent the success of the pending effort to extradite Charles Kratz, who is now held under arrest in Guadalupe, Mex., as a fugitive from justice.

Gilbert Tells of Attended Bribery.
Wyandotte, Kan., Dec. 17.—Mayor T. B. Gilbert told the grand jury Wednesday that he had been offered \$5,000 by the brick paving trust to appoint a certain attorney city counselor.

In Three Days Cholera Killed 176.
Constantinople, Dec. 17.—An epidemic of cholera is raging at Korbeia, south of Bagdad. From December 9 to December 12, 176 deaths from the disease were reported.

A Big Brewery Combine.
Pittsburg, Pa., Dec. 17.—A combine was effected here yesterday by which the Duquesne Brewing company absorbs 15 breweries in this city and vicinity. The combine will have an authorized capital of \$15,000,000. The output will be 520,000 barrels per annum.

Petroleum Exploded on a Vessel.
Marseilles, France, Dec. 17.—The Italian bark San Leonardo, from Philadelphia for Cetto, was destroyed by fire Wednesday. The flames were started by an explosion of Petroleum.

Independent Track to Topeka.
Kansas City, Mo., Dec. 17.—Plans for independent Rock Island tracks between Kansas City and Topeka will be among the first problems worked out by B. L. Winchell, now that he has assumed entire charge of the traffic department of the Rock Island properties.

Will Gov. Peabody Be Sustained?
Denver, Col., Dec. 17.—The state supreme court is asked to decide whether Gov. Peabody's action in declaring martial law and suspending the writ of habeas corpus in Teller county is legal.

NEWS FROM MISSOURI.

Miss Helen Gould has promised the Moberly Y. M. C. A. a new gymnasium when its membership reaches 500.

The Rich Hill Coal company has abandoned shaft No. 15, near Rich Hill, which has been operated 14 years and produced over \$6,000,000 worth of coal. For many years the mine employed 400 miners day and night.

Circuit Judge Hazell, of Cole county, has appointed Frank M. Brown and Edwin Silver to prosecute the disbarment proceedings against Robert P. Stone, suspended from the office of prosecuting attorney by himself for alleged irregularities.

On the farm of John Carson, near Russellville, Howard county, is an apple orchard which was planted 70 years ago. The land was pre-empted at that time, and the original "sheepskin" deed was signed by Andrew Jackson. The orchard bore a good crop this year. Many of its trees are three feet in diameter.

On January 2 a conference of the Folk clubs and Folk believers of the entire state will be held in St. Louis. It will be followed at night by a meeting in Music hall. The date for the meeting was set for January 2, as the holiday railroad rates will, then be available. Congressman W. D. Vandiver is Folk's manager.

Abraham Herrington, a messenger for the American Express company living at Sedalia, who became insane a few days ago while on his run on the Kansas City division of the Missouri, Kansas & Texas railway, escaped from the hospital at Sedalia. Arrangements were making to remove the patient to his old home in Canada and he was to have started soon.

Many republican papers of the Sixteenth congressional district favor A. P. Murphy for congressman from that district. Mr. Murphy is national attorney for the Creek Indians at a salary of \$5,000 a year. He stated that in case he was nominated in his home district he would return and make the race. He was defeated for the nomination in the same district by one vote in 1901.

Dr. F. B. Mumford, acting dean of the Missouri agricultural college, secured figures and other information on Missouri mules which reveal that the number of live stock in this state is far greater than in 1900, which, in view of unfavorable conditions, is remarkable evidence of the wonderful agricultural vitality of Missouri. They show that the number of mules in this state has now reached 300,000. Their value is estimated at \$23,000,000.

Missouri alone now has nine per cent. of the total number of mules in the United States. There are more mules in Missouri than in any other state except Texas. When it is remembered that during the Boer war thousands of mules were shipped from Missouri to South Africa these figures are astounding. Missouri has in three years leaped to the position of second mule state in America, crowding Texas closely for first honor.

Mule-breeding in Missouri is on the increase and will continue. The mule is a good investment. A good team should bring as high as \$500. Mules do not vary in value so widely as horses. A great advantage in breeding mules is that they require such little care and comparatively small feeding. A mule can get along on a smaller amount of feed than a horse, and it does not seem to make much difference what the feed is.

Representative Dorsey W. Shackelford declined to sign the petition for a pardon of Dr. J. D. Goddard, sent to the penitentiary for killing of Fred W. Jackson, the laundryman in Kansas City. The case was tried in Jefferson City when Mr. Shackelford was judge of the circuit court. All the members of the jury and the prosecuting attorney have signed the petition for a pardon. Judge Shackelford said when the petition was presented to him: "I must decline to make the request. I have never known a case which presented so many repulsive criminal features as this one. The conditions as revealed in the testimony were absolutely shocking and the killing was a monstrous crime against society and the state."

Missouri is to have better high schools. At least, that is the result contemplated by extension work of the state university teachers' college soon to be inaugurated. It has been the practice in the past for the state university to employ an inspector of high schools for the purpose of placing certain of them upon the "approved list," so that their graduates might be admitted to the university without examination